Application for LPG connections in Tamil Nadu and Kerala

597. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) how many applications are pending with the oil companies for LPG connections in Tamil Nadu and Kerala as on date, district-wise;

(b) how many among them are more than one year old, district-wise;

(c) how many L.P.G. dealers are there in each district in both the States;

(d) how many LPG connections were sanctioned in each district in both the States during the last three years; year-wise; and

(e) what steps are being taken to clear the pending applications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (d) The required information is given in the statements enclosed as Annexure-I [*See* Appendix CXLVII, Annexure No. 30] (Tamil Nadu) and Annexure—II [*See* Appendix CXLVII, Annexure No. 31] (Kerala).

(e) LPG connections will continue to be released by the oil industry all over the country, including in Tamil Nadu and Kerala, in a phased manner under its annual programme for enrolment of customers, subject to augmentation in availability of LPG and bottling capacity.

Meetings of the I.O.C. Board

598. DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state on how many occasions during the last 25 years Board Meetings of the Indian Oil Corporation were held in Guwahati, where its first refinery is located?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): During the last 25 years, one Board meeting of Indian Oil Corporation was held at Guwahati on December 28, 1966.

Socio-economic benefits from the proposed Assam refinery

599. DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the socio-economic benefits, other than employment and petty contracts to the local people, which the proposed refinery in Assam is expected to generate;

(b) whether Government would like the new organisation to diversify into other pertoleum related fields and become a nucleus for further economic growth in the North Eastern region;

(c) whether any perspective or long range planning has been done by the Ministry for the proposed refinery so that its foundation and structure can be well laid right from the beginning;

(d) what kind of a role Government envisage for the proposed refinery;

(e) whether any revenue will accrue to Government directly from the conversion of State's non-renewable resources into essential products; and

(f) whether State Government participation will be allowed in the proposed refinery?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (f) Apart from generation of direct and indirect employment, the proposed refinery in Assam will contribute to the all round socio-economic development of the region. It will also generate revenue for the Government through excise duties, income tax and sales tax. Diversification of the proposed refinery into other petroleum related fields is